

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Flint Drinking Water Response



**Subject:** SitRep #37  
Flint Drinking Water Response  
Flint, MI

**To:** Flint Drinking Water Response Distribution List

**Through:** Mark Durno, Unified Command Liaison  
**From:** Ann Whelan, Situation Unit Leader

**Date:** 2/28/16  
**Reporting Period:** 2/27/16, 1500 hours – 2/28/16, 1500 hours



*Tim Simpson from EPA Region 4's lab in Athens, GA confirms the presence of chlorine in a water sample collected from a Flint residence*

## **1 Introduction**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has deployed a team to assist with the Flint Drinking Water Response. EPA is part of a Unified Coordination Group (UCG) with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Both ASPR and CDC are a part of Health and Human Services (HHS), which is the lead agency for this response.

### **1.1 Incident Command Post**

The EPA Incident Command Post (ICP), staging area, and Mobile Command Post (MCP) are located on the Kettering University campus at 1300 Bluff Street. The Unified Command Post (UCP) is at 125 E. Union St.

### **1.2 Unified Coordination Group Senior Leadership Objectives**

- Provide immediate access to safe water
- Ensure the safety of and public confidence in the water supply
- Understand and address immediate health needs from potential lead exposure
- Mitigate other impacts of the water contamination crisis on the residents of Flint

### **1.3 EPA Operational Objectives**

- Ensure health and safety of the public and response personnel
- Collect, coordinate, manage, and communicate environmental and public health data
- Determine the effects of reintroduced orthophosphate in reducing lead in the drinking water system through sequential & water quality sampling
- Coordinate with EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) system assessment of the drinking water system, including chlorine residual monitoring
- Determine field efficacy of preventive measures
- Respond to health agency requests for environmental sampling
- Maintain effective communications with HHS, unified command, cooperating agencies, and the public
- Determine a path forward with the community, coordinating agencies, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), City of Flint, and health agencies to ensure the safe use of drinking water

## **2 Activities During Reporting Period**

### **2.1 UCG Representatives**

- Participated in daily briefings with the UCG and EPA Headquarters
- Assisted UCG in developing long term planning metrics
- Assisted ATSDR to coordinate legionella planning meeting

### **2.2 Public Information**

- PIO accompanied a sampling team to take photos at a home where filter samples were collected.
- PIO is working with EPA HQ to simplify language in Fact Sheet in response to concerns expressed by residents.
- PIO is working with CIC to develop Fact Sheets to describe overall sampling effort.

### 2.3 Community Involvement

- CIC Team answer incoming resident calls, schedule future sampling appointments, update the sample schedule database, engage with residents during sampling and handed out EPA factsheets
- Assisted sampling teams with field grab and sequential sampling – including a 6-story homeless shelter. Engaged with residents during sampling and handed EPA flyers.
- HQ canvassing team and a CIC (Adrian Palomeque) attended an event at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

### 2.4 Task Force Safety Officer

- No injuries or near misses

### 2.5 Task Force Leader

- Toured lead service line replacement sites.
- Met and Transitioned to operations Brian

### 2.6 Water Sampling Team

The Water Sampling Team performs diagnostic home investigations for sampling events to determine possible sources of lead contamination. Sampling investigations include residual chlorine sampling. Each sequential sampling investigation includes up to (21) 1-liter samples and up to (4) 125-milliliter samples; each grab sample investigation includes up to (3) 1-liter samples.

Residential Drinking Water Samples Collected					
	Filter Grab Samples	Sequential Samples	Health Complaint Samples	Bacteria	Total Bottles Collected
2/27/16	6	1	0		52
Total to Date	194	91	35	13	~2,476

### 2.7 ORD/OW Water Assessment Team

Residual chlorine is sampled Monday through Wednesday of each week. Samples are taken from a wide geographical area and from all sizes of pipe. 24 chlorine residuals samples are collected and combined with 10 chlorine residual data points collected by the water utility.

- No activity

### 2.8 Data Management Team

- Continue working with the Water Sampling Team and EPA lab to fix errors in the SCRIBE database
- Share EPA data with MDEQ
- Updating the Medical Technical Assistance Sampling data for sharing with ATSDR & future sharing with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

### 2.9 Logistics Team

- Provide logistics support throughout the day to include: Facilities Management, Shipping - Receiving of UPS items, Mobile Command Post operations, supplies, and IT support as needed.
- Picked up water filters from FEMA warehouse for water team to distribute to residents as needed.
- Turned in recyclables at Kettering University recycling center.

## 3 Staffing/Personnel

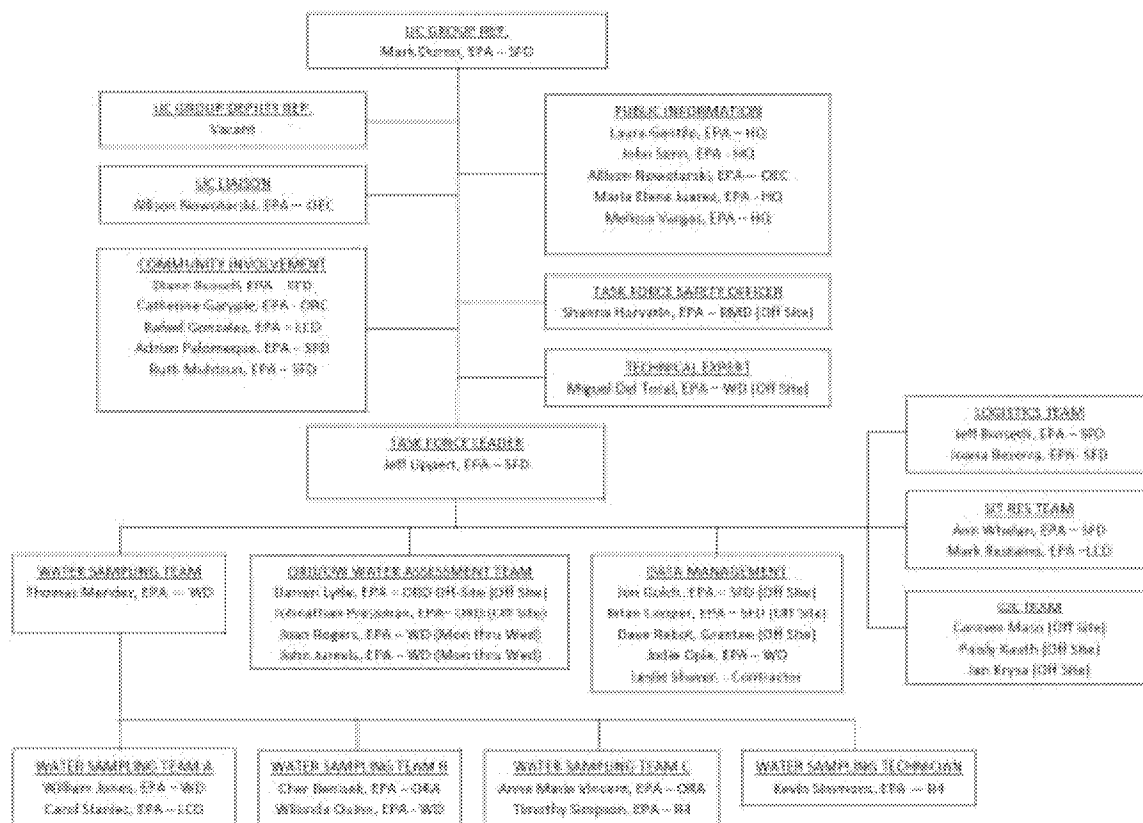
As of 1500 hours, 25 personnel are checked into the EPA ICP. 1 demobed and 1 checked in. The current organizational chart is included as Appendix A.

## 4 Definition of Terms

Acronym	Definition
ASPR	Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
CIC	Community Involvement Coordinator
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GIS	Geographic Information System
HASP	Health and Safety Plan
HHS	Health and Human Services
HQ	Headquarters
JIC	Joint Information Center
ICP	Incident Command Post
IMT	Incident Management Team
LOGS	Logistics
MCP	Mobile Command Post
MDEQ	Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
MDHHS	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
ORD	EPA Office of Research and Development

OW	EPA Office of Water
PIO	Public Information Office
SITL	Situation Unit Leader
SitRep	Situation Report
UCG	Unified Coordination Group
UCP	Unified Command Post

**APPENDIX A:**  
**Organizational Chart**  
**Flint Drinking Water Response**  
**EPA Unified Command Structure**



2/28/2016